

AN
ESSAY
ON THE
NAIR SYSTEM
OF
GALLANTRY AND INHERITANCE;
SHEWING ITS
SUPERIORITY OVER MARRIAGE,
AS INSURING AN
INDUBITABLE GENUINNESS OV BIRTH,
AND BEING
MORE FAVORABLE TU POPULATION, THE RIGHTS OV WOMEN,
AND THE ACTIVE DISPOSITION OV MEN.

Genus hinc materna superbum
Nobilitas dabat, incertum de patre ferebat.

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THE NAIRS.

THE Nairs are the Nobility ov the Malabar coast, and affirm that they are the oldest nobility in the world; as the moast antient writers ov Indostan often mention the privilege of the Nair ladies tu hav menny lovers. Their houses, which stand single, hav always as menny doors as the lady has lovers. When wun ov them visits her, he walks round the house, and strikes with his seabre upon his buckler, as a signal ov his approach. If the lady be not engaged, he leaves a domestic with his arms in a kind ov porch. Wun day, at particular seasons, all the lovers visit her, and dine together. The mother only has the charge ov the children; and even the Samorin, and the other Princes, hav no other heirs than the children ov their sisters; that having no family, they may be always ready tu march against an enemy. When the nephews are ov an age tu bear arms, they follow their uncle. The name ov a father is unknown tu a Nair child; he speaks ov the lovers ov his mother, and ov his uncles, but never ov his father.

THE NAIKS

THE NAIKS are the Nobles of the Indian Court, and all the
they are the oldest nobility in the world; as the most ancient writers
of Indian often mention the privilege of the NAIKS in any
lovers. Their houses, which stand high, are always as many doors
as the lady has lovers. When one of them with her, he walks round
the house, and strikes with his hand in the bushes, as a sign of
his approach. If the lady be not at home, he leaves a domestic with
his arms in a kind of porch. When at particular seasons, all the
ladies retire, and dine together. The mother only has the charge of
the children; and even the Samanin, and the other Priests, have no
other duties than the children of their sisters; that having no family,
they may be always ready to march against an enemy. When the
nobles go to a place in their army, they follow their mother. This
name of a father is unknown in a NAIK child; he speaks only of his
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ESSAY, &c.

DURING the confusion which the opinions on the Rights of Man caused in the speculative world, every unprejudiced mind must have listened with satisfaction to the voice of an unassisted female, who, with becoming spirit, has vindicated the rights, and with all the persuasive energy of truth, has painted the inglorious situation of her sex.—While the Barons at Runnymede were embroiled with their Sovereign concerning their violated privileges, the hardy peasant and industrious artificer saw the opportunity of terminating the grievances of servitude. Now, therefore, now or never, is the time for wretched half of the human species to burst those chains, which habit or tyranny have forged for them, and to assert that consideration, which nature design'd them to possess in society. The males have indulged their selves in the same deliberate system of injustice, that the great too often pursue in most worldly affairs, who, viewing their less fortunate brothers unassisted by education, and humiliated by poverty, conspire to render, by partial laws and various abuses, their unfriended destiny still more miserable. So, the continuation of the species requiring that wretched sex should be subject to the pains and inconvenience of childbirth, the other has determined to aggravate this hardship, and with a dastardly policy to construe this necessary difference into an indubitable mark of inferiority.

Let the lovers of controversy declare why this inferiority be necessary, and in what it may consist; whether it proceed from the inalterable

decrees ov nature, or from a fortuitus manner of education. During their continuance in the nursery, the progress ov a brother and sister in knowledge will be equal ; but can wun expect that it will continue so, when wun considers how differently they are treated afterward ?

The boy ov rank is sent tu a public school, whare he is allow'd tu associate with a number ov children ov his oan age, among hoom he singles out his frends, and revenges with his oan hand enny injury he may receive. His body is strengthend by every manly exercise, and his courage must on no occasion be called intu question. His emulation is excited by a variety ov premiums, and he is told that the consideration he may wish tu enjoy among his fellows, must proceed from the superiority ov his abilities ; and even the authority ov the higher classes, and subordination introduced among the scholars selves, must be a great spur to improovment. The choicest books of antiquity are put intu his hands, and he has it in his power tu make a comparison between ancient and modern manners. He is taught tu burn with the patriotism ov a Brutus, and to entertain an unknown public with an oration ov Cicero or Demosthenes. During the vacations, he is allowed tu ramble thru every corner ov a metropolis, tu see every thing that is tu be seen, and tu hear every thing that is tu be heard ; tu enter every roof from the senate tu a puppet show, from the courts of justice tu an auction-room ; tu perambulate a race-course, and behold human nature at a gaming-table.

Then tu crown all, come the advantages ov travelling. He is admitted intu the presence ov every crownd hed, and initiated into the mysteries ov every government. He officiates at the toilet ov a favorit actrefs ; improovs his self by the company and conversation ov women ov rank and fashio ; and becomes acquainted with every class ov society at a public ordinary. His knowlege is every day enlarged, his prejudices vanish, and his reason grows enlightend, by beholding the prejudices ov others.

How widely different is the education of the other sex ! In England, as thare are no convents, whare the female youth ov Catholic countries are generally instructed, the young lady is placed at a boarding-school,

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where she is guarded with as much vigilance as a Sultana in the Grand Signor's seraglio. It is true, she is allow'd the converse of other girls of her own age; but it is always under the inspection of a governess, who, perhaps the refuse of a foreign nation, is happy to show her authority in tyrannizing over her infant charge. Music and dancing, which, if at all introduced into the education of boys, are look'd upon merely as the occupations of an idle hour; and relaxations from severer studies, are consider'd the most indispensable attainments, upon which the whole success of the pupil depends; and the various kinds of needle-works (some of which are useful) can certainly not enlarge the range of her ideas. The only persons of the other sex whom she sees are the dancing-master, whom she believes the pattern of all manly perfection; the writing-master, the object of her innocent jokes; and perhaps an old footman, whom she is oblig'd to bribe for every little delicacy which puerile appetite may crave; for even her cloaths, after a visit among her friends, are examined; and each volume which composes her library, undergoes the strictest investigation. Every exercise is represented to her as unbecoming her rank, and detrimental to her dress; and each affected symptom of fearfulness, she is told, will add an irresistible charm to her person. If she be allow'd to take the air, that practice so necessary to her health, is but of small advantage or diversion. She is forced to march with her fellows with as much regularity, as if their promenade were to terminate in Noah's ark.

At last the joyful hour arrives, when she is to be freed from school restraint; but the liberty, after which every human being must pant, still flies her like a phantom: even now she has not as much liberty as a boy, who has reach'd his tenth year. If she wishes to visit an acquaintance, or purchase any article which she may need, she dare not stir, without being attended by a lackey; and how often is she disappointed in her desire of being present at a public amusement, from the want of a chaperon. If a masquerade be announced, after a long deliberation what character may suit her humor, and what habit may suit her person, she is oblig'd to spend all the intervening time in the formation of her dress; whereas the young man dispatches all his prepa-

ration in a ten minutes conversation with his taylor. Novels and romances are the only books to which she is encouraged to fly for entertainment, instruction being entirely out of the question; whereas a boy always having had it in his power to rummage a circulating library, is disgusted of such trash, before he arrives at half her age. Can you ask if this be a proper education? Yes; to form the play-thing of a man of sense, but not his friend nor companion. Sovereign man has determined that ignorance should perpetuate the authority which chance has given him over the other sex. The Bramins of Indostan pursue the same policy, who condemn, as guilty of a capital crime, every individual of an inferior cast, who profane curiosity should have presumed to peruse the awful sanscrit: and the gentry of Russia, when discussing every subject of liberty, express their selves in the French language, in order that their opinions may be unintelligible to their vassals.

Among the higher orders, the education of the two sexes differing more widely, less equality of powers is to be expected; but if you descend among humbler life, and consider the lower classes, you will find both sexes much more on a level, not only because the males receive not so much attention, but because also the females are not subject to so much restraint; and if the peasants, who had never left the village of their nativity, were to be examined, the man would perhaps not be found superior to the woman in every mental endowment.

If the female can approach the male as near in corporeal as in mental powers, may indeed admit of a doubt; but perhaps from the same cause that the labouring man is robuster than he whose fortune never necessitated to work; that the bargeman is stouter than the gentleman; and the swain in the hamlet more hardy than the Lord of the Manor; may not the male possess greater bodily strength than the other sex. In countries, where the women are accustomed to toil in the fields, to support immense burdens, to undergo every fatigue, and to face every change of heat or cold, they are not distinguishable from the men by the weakness of their frame, or the tenderness of their constitution.—During you of our late armaments, while the terror of the pressgang retained the colliers at home, the barges in sum of the coal counties were

were managed by females ; and it is no uncommon object on the Thames to see women of all ages rowing and punt-pushing, even where the stream is most rapid. What travelling Englishman is not surprised at the masculine appearance of a poissarde at Calais ? and a fishwoman at Billingsgate would put to flight a whole troop of Saint James's macaronies.

But can any one doubt of the equality of the sexes, when there are so many examples of female abilities every day offered to man's consideration ? Women have arrived at a literary eminence through the exertion of powers, which the talents of many men would be proud to rival, and very few can surpass *. France has produced ladies, whose names are revered wherever their almost-universally-studied language is understood, and whose delightful works are generally selected to inspire the foreigner with a taste for French literature. Germany is not destitute

* It is a conclusion entirely false, if one imagines, because no female may in any science have attained that degree of perfection, at which the most distinguished characters among the men have arrived, that her mental powers are naturally inferior to those of the other sex. If one considers how small the number is of women, who have dedicated themselves to any branch of science, and notwithstanding that sum of these have signalized themselves, I can not see with what justice one can conclude that they have less capacity ; because among the enormous multitude of men, there are sum whose abilities they have not been able to equal. The following remark will set in a clearer light the injustice and want of foundation in this conclusion. One can not maintain, that the most capable among the women have, from their own free inclination, applied themselves to this or that science ; every spur to this inclination is wanting. Only those, therefore, who, from some fortuitous cause, have acquired the means, have followed any scientific pursuit. They can not choose among the sciences that to which they are particularly inclined, but must cultivate those which fortune may have cast directly into their way. The most of them learn what their fathers knew, or gave them an opportunity to learn ; but if any of them have, from their own accord, harbored the thought of acquiring any part of science, they have been obliged to contend with a thousand difficulties ; while the men, should they exhibit but the least spark of pleasure or genius, receive every possible assistance to fan and to satisfy it in that tract of learning to which they show a propensity. In the present situation, it is wonderful that the females have succeeded so well ; and this success is a proof of their natural equality in mental powers. On the contrary, the greater progress which sum males have made in science, is no proof of the inferiority of female abilities.

MANN and WEIB, *Leipfic*, 8vo. 1791.

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ov writers ov the fair, and insultingly called weak, sex, hoo hav excelled in every branch ov larning; and tu transcribe the catalog ov English authoresses wood be an attempt ov too great a length for this treatise. It may be said, "it is true thare are menny female writers; but the plurality of their productions are novels and romances." This proceeds from the faultiness ov their education, and not from a deficiency ov parts. If the study ov a woman consists only ov novels and romances, her pen will be able to produce nothing ov greater importance than a love elegy or a tale; and the composition of these requires as much genius and taste, tho not as much larning or profoundness ov thought, as works ov a severer nature; and in genius and taste she is seldom deficient.

Should wun ask the politician, what European government is conducted with most vigor? he would answer, Russia. A gygantic mind has availd to fix a woman on a throne, which the most intrepid resolution only would have dared tu mount; tu conciliate the affections ov a nation, the difficulties of hoos language nothing less than the most determined perseverance could hav ever overcome; and has whispered her, when tu grasp, with the hand of despotism, or when tu sooth into compliance the rugged and differently disposed tribes ov a quarter ov the erth. And let the philosopher point out among the males a more accomplished character than the Chevalier d'Eon, hoo, when exercising the duties ov wun ov the most trying situations of public life, that ov an Ambassador, gain'd the approbation ov her Sovereign, and applause of her country; hoo has undergone all the fatigues ov a military life; and hoo has exhibited her courage and greatness ov soal on more than on wun occasion; and hoo has wielded her pen with as much execution as she has brandish'd her sword; and hoo even now, at an advanced age, is able tu astonish an admiring public at her agility and adroitness, while she defies, at their own weapons, the profess'd masters ov a manly exercise.

Sum peeple may be willing tu deem these phenomenons, and merely exceptions tu a general rule. If an inquisitiv philosopher had collected a multitude ov girls, and selected from them wun, hoo was distinguished

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by the moast promising parts, and had given tu her a particular education, in order tu be able tu judge ov the extent ov female abilities, wun might with reason hav esteem'd her a phenomenon, and a singular exception tu a general rule ; but as it is well known that a particular family consideration wos the cause ov the Chevalier d'Eon's manly education, it is not unreasonable tu suppose that other females, blessed with a like education, woold arrive at the same eminence.

It may not here be improper tu observe, that tu the wrong education ov the females, may perhaps be ascribed the folly tu be found among the males. The literary world are pleased with the society ov the literate ; and the illiterate seek the company ov the ignorant : a woman hoos hole attention is directed tu dress and amusement, can not fail tu be disgusted at enny grave subject of conversation ; and a young man, at hoose age the desire ov pleasing the other sex is naturally more ardent, must become frivolus tu gain her approbation. Hence the moast precious years ov life are dedicated tu trifling pursuits ; whereas, should the women receiv a proper education, the beau woold be pass'd over with neglect, and the man ov sense woold reciev that deference which he might deserv.

It being shown that she is his equal, why shoold the woman obey the man, more than the man shoold obey the woman ? It is true, during the first ages ov the world, according tu the Mosaic tradition, the woman wos considered merely as the handmaid ov her lordly companion * ; but the bible was written by a man ; had it been written by a woman, wun might hav had a quite different account. And can wun wonder, that such opinions were adoptd by the patriarchs, and recieved with approbation at the Court ov King David and King Solomon, the latter ov hoom retained in his seraglio, for his oan use and entertainment, seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines ?

* Some people may be ov the opinion, that the woman wos created for the use ov the man ; but, says the author of "Mann und Weib," "the West-Indian planter could, with equal reason, justify his conduct, and maintain that God had created the negro in Africa for him."

It is probable that there have existed, and still exist, many women, whose magnanimity has resolv'd to restrain every amorous desire, so natural to all creatures, in order to escape the degradation of an oppressive yoke. Of such a lofty spirit was Queen Elizabeth of England. Being warn'd by the unhappy fate of her sister, who had experienced in her consort, instead of a rational companion, an overbearing and imperious master, she nobly refused every address flattering to her vanity, and stifled the ambition of transmitting to her descendants the throne of her ancestors.

Marriage seems ordained exclusively for the comfort of the man, that of the woman being entirely unconsidered*. She must follow all his counsels,

* Let him who is disposed to judge of the injustice with which the males, even in that state of incivilization, which woman is inclined to consider as a state of innocence, abuse their authority, read the following abstract from Raynal, "On the European Possessions in East and West India." Twelfth book, first section :

"The oppression in which the women in the new world live, is, without doubt, the cause of the thinness of population, which distinguishes this part of the globe. This tyranny is universal ; but on the banks of the Orinoco more cruel than elsewhere. In these districts, however great the bounty of nature is, few inhabitants are to be found ; the mothers are accustomed often to murder their daughters at their birth ; with which intention, they cut the navel-string so short, that the children die from the loss of blood. Christianity's self has not been able to abolish so horrid a practice. This the Jesuit Gumilla relates. Having heard that woman of his converts had committed such a murder, he went to her, and painted to her her guilt in the most forcible expressions. The woman listened to the missionary with the greatest attention. When he was silent, she begged permission to answer him, which she did in the following manner :

"Would to God, father, would to God, that my mother, when she brought me into the world, had had love and pity enough for her child, to have spared me all I have endured, and must still endure, till the end of my life. If my mother had destroy'd me at my birth, I had died, but had felt nothing from death, and had escaped the most miserable of all situations. Ah ! what have not been my sufferings ! and what remains still for me not to suffer !

"Consider, father, the hardships with which the Indians oppress their wives. They accompany us to the field with their bows and arrows, but we proceed with woman child in a basket, and another hanging at the breast. They leave us ; shoot a bird, or catch a fish ; but we must dig the soil ; and after we have finish'd all that work, the whole labor of the harvest falls on us. They, without the least burden, come home ; we bring them roots
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counsels, without having any veto on his determinations. She must change her abode to suit his convenience ; must break all the friendships of her youth to fulfill his pleasure ; and must be contented to bear his absence, whenever he may please to quit her. If a man has sworn eternal fidelity to a woman, with what justice can he enter the military or naval service, without her permission ? Or is he justified in undertaking a long voyage, and leaving her, perhaps in the bloom of youth, when her passions are most violent, to shiver in a bed of widowhood, which she is not permitted to terminate ? Is it to be expected, that she should act the part of Penelope, while her Ulysses may be squandering his treasures on an Oriental dancing girl, or receives the Circean cup from the hands of a Mulatto toast ? A modern husband would be fur-

for their food, and mais for their drink. After their return, they amuse their selves in visiting their friends ; we must fetch the water to cook the supper. After the meal, they lay their selves down to sleep ; and we must pass the night in grinding the mais, and preparing for them their chika ; and what is the reward of our watchings ? They drink the chika ; and when they are drunk, they drag us about by the hair, and trample upon us with their feet.

“ Ah ! father, would to God my mother had destroyed me at my birth ! Thou knowest if my complaints are just or not. What I tell thee, that thou seest every day. But our greatest misfortune canst thou by no means know. Wretched is the situation of the poor woman, who must serve her husband like a slave ; who must work through the whole day in constant sweat, and even during the night dare not enjoy rest ; but it is terrible if she should survive, and he, after twenty years, should take a young wife, who has no reason. He then gives his self entirely up to her. She beats us, she beats our children ; she rules over us, and treats us like servants ; and at the least murmur, the husband comes to her assistance with a cudgel. Ah ! father, how canst thou desire that we should endure this situation ? How can an Indian act better than snatch her child from a slavery, which is a thousand times worse than death ? I say it wince more, I wish my mother had had love enough for me to have buried me, when first I came into the world ! My heart would not have had so much to suffer, nor my eyes so much to weep.”

“ Not with the same brutality, but with a like partiality and injustice, is marriage instituted among the generality of nations. It would be too laborious to collect every instance, and the difference of the customs would make the whole examination too diffuse !”

I have selected the above quotation of the author of “ Mann und Weib,” not only to show under what a state of slavery women in all parts of the world exist, but also to prove that their inactivity and want of exertion is the chief cause of their corporeal weakness.

prised, upon his return from his morning promenade, tu find. that his other half had posted away, tu be present at the Master of the Ceremonies' ball at Bath; tho his self wood make no scruple tu quit her, tu attend the Spring meeting at Newmarket.

It may here be said, that no political body, no literary society, no convivial meeting, can be properly conducted without a President; and that marriage cood not exist, if wun ov the parties ware not invested with superior authority; but let it first be proovd, if it be necessary or just that it shood exist at all. The abolishion ov this impolitic and vexatious institution wood be the abolishion ov the servitude of the wun, nay, wood increase the liberty and happiness ov boath sexes; and, far from being detrimental to population, wood be the greatest assistance which it cood receive.

There is implanted in the mind ov man, such a repugnance tu restriction, that every pleasure loses its power tu delight, when it assumes the appearance of a duty. Shood wine be prescribed as a medicine tu a drunkard, he wood not relish it more than the moast bitter physic; and the youth hoo spurns at the counsels ov his governor, will follow, without hesitation, the advice ov an uninterested friend, his superior in age and experience. The least unnecessary compulsion is not only a diminution ov freedom, and consequently ov happiness, but also defeats the intended advantage. Then may wun not dout ov of the wisdom ov a constrained fidelity? No observation in the animal world can justify the measure.

During the existence ov that passion, which influenced the marriage ov tue lovers, there are hopes that their connexion will not be unproductive; but shood indifference or disgust succeed tu the raptures ov possession, all compulsiv ties wood not only be a source ov vexation tu the disappointed pair, but a deprivation tu society ov tue members, hoo are debar'd from forming enny new connexion, which might promise better success. This is corroborated by the following observation—that if the first years ov cohabitation are attended by no issue, little is the probability ov enny. Varius are the causes which may demand a separation, which humanity must delight tu grant, and policy can not refuse.

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Of all the considerable cities of Europe, the only wun, of which the population annually increafes, is Berlin, where marriage is esteem'd a mere fimple contract, tu be annul'd or renewd at the pleasure of the contractors. Love having induced them tu embrace the ceremony, fhoud the caufe exift not longer, nun of the falutary confequences are tu be expected, and the intention of the ceremony being frustrated, equally as it wood hav bin by the death of either of the parties, boath are confidered as widowed, and at liberty tu enter new engagements. In Germany *, a divorce may be had with the greateft facility, and is not only granted, fhoud wun of the parties be convicted of adultery, or accused of an extravagance detrimental tu the purfe of the other; but is even never denied tu that pair, hoo are willing tu feperate. How ridiculous is the boasted liberty of the Briton, when compared tu this inef-timal right, enjoyed by a nation, hoom his prejudice and pride induces him tu confider as flaves! Wood a wife Pruffian, tho represented in no Parliament, and inable, when accused, tu appeal tu the decifion of a jury, be willing tu change his fittuation with an Englifhman, and bar-ter the power of chufing and changing the partner of his fortune for an impunity, when uttering an indecent satire or caractature againft the moaft exalted perfonages in the land, or for the luxury of participating the favorite Britifh national amufement of burning the effigy of an unpopular Minifter?

It is true, a pair may hav vowed a mutual conftancy; but is man, hoo is not to be depended upon in the moft immaterial affairs, hoo re-jects every acquifition as foon as poffefft, and fighs for every untasted

* The following hiftory, on account of its fingularity and notoriety, may not be unac-ceptable tu the Englifh reader:

The Countefs de R*** was, in her fifteenth year, married tu the Baron de H***, who was previuſly in love with his prefent wife, hoo ſome time afterward married M. de L**. After the elapſe of more than a dozen years, which were embittered by her complaints againft him, hoom ſhe accused of being ftill in love with Madame de L**, the Countefs decamp'd fuddenly from the Baron, hoo procured a divorce from her. Upon the intelligence of this, Madame de L**, hoo was at that time refident at Berlin, quitted her husband and family; poſted away to the Baron, and prevailed upon him tu marry her. The ladies are not only receiv'd at Court, but frequent the firft circles of company in the empire.

enjoyment; hoo forsakes his frends and his home, and roams from land to land in search of amusement; hoo changes his passions and opinions as frequently as his jeweller the shape ov his buckles, and his taylor the fashion ov his coat; is man capable of promising any permanent thing? Shood he, hoos reason is so deadend by habit, or misguided by prejudice; hoos temper is as variable as the atmosphere which he breathes; hoo is different when in the vigor ov helth or hour ov sickness; and hoos cameleon temper may display a hue to-morrow unlike that which it exhibited to-day; shood he assume the language ov infallibility, or, like the thunderer ov the Heathens, sanction with an irrevocable nod the acts ov his presumption? Experience is the prerogative ov age; then may wun not hope that the accession ov every day will bring its portion ov wisdom? Whot rational being, tharefore, would refuse tu participate this advantage, or madly resolv to shut his eyes against enny ray ov conviction? However great wun's sagacity may be, every addition ov wisdom may set wun's actions in such a new light, that wun may not longer be satisfied with their expedience. No wun then shood subject his self tu an eternal obligation.

During the continuance ov a courtship, each lover being attentiv tu appear amiable in the eyes ov the other, it is difficult tu discover the real temper ov either. No brutal debauchee, or unpolished sportsman, will extol the beauty ov a bar-maid, or fleetness ov a hunter, in the presence ov an adored mistress. No gambler will enlard his amorous entreaties with the execrations ov a gaming-table, or dialect ov a cockpit; nor will the fair expatiate on a brocade petticoat, mention a pharotable, or disclose her determination ov participating the pleasures ov high life, tu a lover, hoo sighs for the comforts ov domestic ease.

But soon as the fatal knot is tied, the fun ov reason will dissipate the vapors of passion, and exhibit in their true colors those scenes, which the fairy fiction of a creativ imagination hav misrepresented. When the hour of retraction is pass'd, they will shudder at the height ov the precipice from which they hav fallen; but no fertility ov genius shall be able tu snatch them from the Dedalean labyrinth. Too soon, alas! they are convinced ov the impossibility ov their vows. Can a duration

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ov love be expected, when the objects are unworthy ov esteem? Can a man ov virtue honor a woman destitute ov morality? or shood a woman ov sence be required tu obey a man ov an inferior capacity? Happy is that heart which, from a want ov feeling, can support the failings ov a beloved object, when the hand ov time has tore away the mask ov delusion; for soon may the most delicate sensibility be submitted tu the careffes ov the reeling drunkard, and the thunder ov the knocker alone announce tu the domestic husband the return ov the female rake. Tired ov each other's society, separate establishments are appointed; the pleasures ov the field recommend the country to his choice, and the town residence assures tu the wife every dissipation which she can desire. Weary ov the yoke, from which he can not liberate his self, and unable tu form any honorable connexion, he endeavors tu forget his vexations in the arms ov a woman ov mean extraction and bad repute; his spouse finds no difficulty in retaliating his neglect, by casting the eye ov invitation on sum new favorit. Thus, the children ov a stranger succeed tu his paternal inheritance; while his own offspring must eat the bread ov misery, and perhaps end a life ov wickedness by a death ov infamy.

How pitiable is the situation ov that person hoo, being blinded by youthful passion, has made a sacrifice ov liberty to wun hoo is incapable ov gratitude or tenderness, and afterward hoos marriage is the only obstacle tu a connexion with an other, hoo may possess every endowment which may constitute an amiable spouse! Tu this person, whot reasonable judge woud deny an absolution from the mortifying tie? or tu him, hoo being the sole descendant ov an illustrious house, is disappointed, by the sterility ov his consort, in all his hopes ov an heir? and tho false delicasy may forbid her tu seek redress, no philanthropist can fail tu pity the destiny ov that deluded female, hoo, in the bloom ov youth, is consigned tu the embrace ov frigid impotence*.

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* "Is it not a pity that the youth (for how, in the present situation of things, can he act otherwise) offers the first glass tu a common strumpet, and reserves the lees for an honest girl; can enny wun take it amiss if she shood look about her for a fresh bottle?"

Ueber die Ehe. Berlin, 12mo.

Even tho neither ov the parties may hav bin decieved, and nature may hav bestowd upon the amiable couple every endowment ov the mind, and every corporeal grace, and art hav distinguish'd them with a multiplicity ov accomplishments; yet the heart ov man is subject tu change, and his passion for variety is a general proverb. All the qualities which each may possess, may not be able to counterbalance, in the eyes of the other, a deficiency in the moast trivial recommendation.— The superior minuet ov a new-seen gallant may set her bosom on fire, and the meltifluous voice ov a foreign fair, may storm the castle of his fidelity. Then, if they resign their selves tu the force ov their inclinations, their vows will be only a source of unnecessary vexation; or if they resolve tu maintain their obligations, each will be forced tu feed on the unnatural expectation ov the death ov the other, while population, the end ov their union, suffers from their determination.

Even when the domestic prospects hav every advantage, which can insure a perpetual felicity, and the object ov temptation may boast no recommendatory charm, the pamperd mortal will grow weary of his blifs, and, in the true spirit ov Quixotism, pay divine honors tu every Dulcinea * hoom chance may offer tu his view. Even tho it ware surrounded by a heath, man wood leap over the palings ov a Paradise.

But it will be said, it is the duty ov the Legislator tu correct, and not tu flatter, the evil dispositions ov man; but first let it be considered, if this love ov variety be pernicious or not. Thare is no greater reason in enacting that a man shood love a woman tu-morrow, because he may love her tu-day, than thare wood be in compelling a man tu dance with a woman at the next ball, because he happend tu be her partner at the last.

In November, 1792, an Englishman accused his wife ov adultery, and in support ov the charge alledged, that she had proovd with child, at a time when a bad state ov helth had hinderd him from having enny commerce with her. But if the women may be supposed tu hav the same natural desires which the men hav, must not the impotence ov the husband absolve the wife from all criminality?

* “How seldom is the female seducer a *Lais*, hoo triumph'd over the understanding ov every philosopher, and over the heart ov every hero ov her time.” Ueber die Ehe.

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An other argument, which may serv tu show the impolicy ov marriage, with regard tu population, is this—it is very evident that it wood be more easy for every woman tu get a lover, and for every man tu find a mistress, than it wood be for either tu acquire a partner for life. How menny poor females are, from the present order ov things, consigned tu perpetual virginity, and obliged to quit the world, without having increased the number ov its inhabitants ! Menny a buty is able to count thirty winters, before she may hav the good fortune tu possess a husband ; whareas had a free commerce between the sexes bin allowd, she might hav bin the mother ov a dozen children before she had attain'd that age. Ware the connexion between the sexes regulated by the will ov nature, and unrestrained by human ordinances, a woman must be an absolute monster ov deformity, hoo cood not persuade sum unengaged person intu a temporary yunion. Sees not wun every day females ov easy chastity, tho destitute ov every mental, and even sometimes ov every corporeal, recommendation, furrounded by crouds ov the other sex, by men ov fashion, taste, and education ? Why meets wun so often among that class ov females, calld Old Maids, women hoo hav possess'd every personal charm, hoo hav excelld in every yuseful and ornamental accomplishment, hoo are distinguish'd by the sweetness ov their tempers, and the goodness ov their hearts ? Whot is the cause ov this unnatural preference ? Wun wood be surpris'd if a youth, fond of dancing, shood singe out a partner from the kitchen, when he might select wun from the drawing-room ; but probably, if a youth, upon the termination of his college studies, ware obliged to fix upon a lady, with hoom he must dance during the hole course ov his life, dancing wood not longer continue a fashionable amusement ; Bath and Tunbridge wood be deserted ; the young Squire wood attend the dairy wench tu the neighbouring wake, while his sister, at the country assembly, wood be obliged to wait, like Patience on a monument, till her mama's rubber shood be decided.

“ Whot ! ” cries the timid thinker, “ can enny wun wish tu convert all our houses intu stews, our mothers intu bawds, and our dauters intu strumpets ? ” Far from it. In a nation, whare thare is no Patrician rank

rank, the opprobrious term "plebian," is unknown, and every individual is stiled a citizen: so, in a nation where there were no wives, there would be no hoers; where no child was born legitimate, none would be insultingly stiled a bastard; but all would be considered as children of love. As long as marriage continues a profession, love will continue a trade.

But here a reasonable question may arise: should a perfect freedom be granted to women, would not every man esteem it a grievance to be obliged to maintain a child, of whose existence there is merely a possibility of his being the author? But let the word "father" be erased from the statute-books, and growing as obsolete as the terms "husband" and "wife," only remain in the dictionary, to explain the customs, and remind us of the barbarity, and want of penetration, in former times. Let every child be resigned to the care of the mother, and succeed only to her possessions.

Let every female live perfectly uncontroll'd by any man, and enjoying every freedom which the males at present enjoy; let her be visited by as many lovers as she may please, and of whatever rank they may be; at her decease let her possessions be divided among her children; those possessions, inherited by her daughters, descending in like manner to their offspring; and those inherited by her sons, falling at their decease to their sisters, and their sisters' descendants.

Every child might remain with the mother, who might superintend the education. The daughters, when they have arrived at that age when they first become acquainted with love, might indulge their inclination with as little restraint as their brothers, who might quarter themselves upon the daughters of other houses. Love would no longer continue that trembling specter, which shuns the light of Heaven, and fills the midnight cellar with infernal orgies; no; it would re-kindle that open and generous fire, which added the distinguishing charm to primeval paradise.

How prolific is this plan of the happiness of mankind! Into the cup of love, which was designed to contain a salutary balm, the officious industry of men has contrived to infuse a venefic drug, to taint the joys

ov wun's existence. Round that rose, which shood hav perfumed the hours of wun's youth, a thorn has madly bin twisted, which has too often caused a fester, and bred a mortification, even after that boisterous season has subsided. Every beneficent philosopher must wish tu preserv the plant; but let the experiment be made, if the pruning-knife can not free its growth from the surrounding briars. Can enny wun dout ov the miseries proceeding from the restraints under which love still labors? Let him look intu the circle ov his oan acquaintance; let him recollect how menmy children in his oan neighbourhood hav been disinherited; how menmy brothers hav fallen in duels; how menmy parents hav died ov broken hearts; he will find a Clarissa Harlowe in menmy a private family. This is the interesting subject which almoast every poet selects; this subject melts an audience at the theatre intu tears, and offers the materials for all the novels, which load the shelves ov the circulating libraries.

If novels, which are composed ov the hardships which every lover, from the present state ov things, must endure, are true portraits ov human life, it is a just conclusion that the greatest part ov human misery proceeds from the same source; but if this new system ware establish'd, love woud offer such an uninterrupted scene ov felicity, that no novel cood be interesting; for then nun ov those disproportionate connexions cood be concluded, which are absolutely contrary tu the design ov the yunion ov the sexes. How often has the maiden bin torn from the arms ov a beloved youth, and falling a sacrifice tu filial obedience, bin buried alive in the arms ov sum hoary doatard. Not more woud the melting miser be able tu treat his self tu a wife; the love ov ease woud not more induce the lusty youth to seek the jointer of the welthy Dowager; nor woud the decrepid and peevish invalid be able tu hire at the office ov Hymen an attentiv nurse for his infirmities. Not longer woud the apprentice marry his late master's widow, tu succeed tu his stock in trade; the Esquire woud not marry the dauter ov his neighbour, in order to settle in the family the county interest; nor an Ambassador demand a foreign Princess, tu seal a pacific or commercial treaty.

It may not here be improper to observe, that the weakness and want of firmness observable in women, proceed principally from the restraint to which they are subject, in order to preserve a character of chastity. But should the women be allowed their natural liberty, this confinement would not be longer necessary; and they would show their selves worthy of enjoying that consideration, which is their birthright, provided they were benefitted by a better education, and permitted to follow their own inclinations. Would a young Etonian possess that manliness and power of conducting his self in every difficulty, if he had never been trusted out of the sight of his tutor? It would not longer be necessary that their motions should be subject to the inspection of a duenna, not only because a perfect freedom in love affairs might be allowed, but because also a misalliance would be impossible.

If chastity be a virtue, why are not the males submitted to its dictates? The males are willing to stile the other sex the weak sex; but with what reason can we suppose, that the justice of the Almighty would subject to severer restrictions those who, from their weakness, must be less able to resist every temptation? No; the slavery in which the females are held, is owing to the tyranny, as well as this high idea of their own superiority to the presumption of the males; for, alas!

Dat veniam corvis, vexat censura columbas.

Some might fear that the females would abuse this liberty, and that population would suffer from the number of their lovers. A nation, which has just burst the shackles of slavery, may at first be disorderly and tumultuous; but after a little while, freedom will assume a milder aspect; will submit to the dictates of prudence, and listen to the voice of humanity. He who is born free, will be a peaceable citizen; but a manumitted slave will be licentious. That females should abuse a newly-acquired freedom, is possible, but by no means certain, or even probable. Let women be free from all human restrictions, and they would tread the path which nature designed for them. "I am inclined," says a
German

German author *, "tu think that whotever is natural can not be pernicious; I permit every thing tu grow as the dear nature pleses, and never let a pruning-knife tuch my trees."

It is true, women of the town are rarely fruitful, and a secret amour is seldom productiv ov issue. Perhaps, in the first case, the multitude ov lovers may be the cause ov sterility; but may wun not dout, if child-birth were always so disgraceful, and productiv ov so meny inconveniences as in boath these cases, whether the married matrons wood be the mothers ov such promising families, as they sumtimes are? But if this new system were introduced, child-murder wood be an unheard-ov crime. The female ov rank wood have a more forcible cause for cherishing her progeny, because the children wood bear the name, and inherit th ehonors ov her family, whareas at present they bear the name and honors ov her husband; at the extinction ov which she cood not be so much mortified. She wood feel the same pride in the number ov her offspring, which animated the noble Roman lady; hoo, having view'd with the greatest indifference the jewels and ornaments belonging tu a female acquaintance, was desired by her tu show her whotever things ov the greatest value she might possess. "These," said she, pointing tu her children, "are my moast valuable treasures!" As population is considered by all politicians the chief welth a nation can boast, let every woman in low circumstances receive from the public treasury a fixt sum, according tu the number ov her children.

But even shood the sterility ov sum females proceed from their lasciviousness, yet no wun can imagin that the number ov such wretches † wood

* Ueber die Ehe.

† Are there, indeed, women, hoo know nothing ov love but the physical enjoyment, and give their selves up to this with as little restraint as menny men? Probably; but on account ov the smallness ov their number, which no wun can compare with the multitude ov men ov a like disposition, they are indubitably tu be considered as female monsters; and if wun be willing tu add tu these the miserable creatures, hoo exercise a trade with their bodies, wun wood not only be unjust, (because seduction, idleness, want, and other such causes, precipitate the plurality ov these, with a very moderate propensity tu lasciviousness, intu the abyss) but wun wood still be unable to produce an equal number. This can be

proved

wood equal the number ov old maids, with which every nation swarms. A strumpet may serv her country, in presenting it with a citizen; a nun never can. Queen Elizabeth died an unprolific virgin; Cleopatra became a mother. A race of heroes is fabled tu hav sprung from Venus. It is a pity that no philosopher has been able to derive his lineage from Minerva.

Tho the connexion between a keeper and his mistress is generally ov but a short duration, it is unjust to conclude, that no yunion, which cood be terminated at the pleasure ov the parties, cood be ov a long continuance. A passion between a rake and a hore has only lust and avarice for its foundation; the sole qualification ov the man is his purse, and her sex is her only recommendation. Disgust must soon take possession ov his brest, and quench the fire ov his raptures; or she will desert him, as soon as his fortune is not longer able tu satisfy her voraciousness, or support her extravagance. Can wun expect, that any force greater than the impulse ov the moment, shood avail to attach the debauched drunkard to the illiterate, unaccomplishd, and depraved harlot? But wun aught not thence tu infer, that constancy wood not be respected by lovers ov a more amiable hue. A woman, tho she never had a ring placed on the fourth finger ov her left hand, can be as fruitful as the vine upon the wall ov the house*; can be possessd ov every virtue, and adorned with every perfection. Cood a man ov sensibility fail tu love such a woman? If a spontaneous fidelity shood not animate such a couple, must not a restrain'd fidelity be unnatural, and, if unnatural, prejudicial and impolitic? The Spanish lady has an unlimited power tu chuse and change her Cicesbeo; yet this extraordinary league, which exceeds marriage in happiness, generally equals

proved with the greatest certainty. The support ov these creatures depends upon the males, hoo require nothing ov them but physical enjoyment; as long as their trade proceeds, they liv in ease and comfort; and therefore menny men must contribute tu the support ov wun single woman. Hence it is clear, however great wun may be willing tu consider the number ov such women, the number of men of a like disposition must be twenty times as great.

MANN UND WEIB.

* See the marriage service.

it in fidelity ; and the enamour'd pair are frequently to be torn by death alone from the arms of each other : let it be remember'd also, that if both parties were able to separate at pleasure, both would be reciprocally more attentive and obliging in their conduct ; whereas at present, if wun sees in company a man and woman, who are particularly morose, or indifferent in their behavior to each other, wun may be sure they are man and wife.

A young man extols his mistress into a deity, and even exults in paying her divine honors. Every ornament of her dress betrays a superior taste ; every feature of her countenance possesses the mark of sensibility. Her mien is the mien of Venus ; her air has the majesty of Juno ; and the wit of Minerva embellishes her conversation. Her idea crowns the solitary walk ; her smile improves the midnight dream ; and to be in her presence, is to be in Heaven's self. No courtier attends the levee of the Minister with such assiduity as her lover frequents her drawing-room ; no Prince receives half of the flattery which she claims from him as her due. At length, the spell works its desired effect ; and while her weakness is overcome by the fragrance of the incense, her softness compassionates the feigned misery of her adorer : she marries him ; from a goddess dwindles into a handmaid, and is treated as a slave.

When wun considers the unhappiness with which a misalliance sometimes involves a whole house, wun must certainly approve a system, by which the very possibility of that source of family strife and dissension must be destroyed. The man of family must behold with regret a relation leading to his marriage-bed the female of a plebeian origin ; and the rich banker, in spite of the remonstrances of her connexions, often aspires with success to the wither'd hand of a disappointed woman of quality. As long as the sons of commerce can equal the gentry in wealth, and the base-born girl the young lady in charms ; as long as conspicuous talents and distinguishing merit shall be found among the lower classes, misalliances will frequently happen. The parent will be obliged to use all the rigor of his authority to counteract the desires of
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ov his child; and the child will look forward with pleasure tu the time when the author ov his being shall resign the goast. Even under the moast democratic government, whare the moast severe equality might seem tu prevail, the rich citizen woud oppose the marriage ov his dauter with a man ov smaller property. But if this new system ware introduced, the heart, entirely unsway'd by avarice, nor influenc'd by respect tu birth, woud attach its self to virtue, or yield its self captiv tu the buty, personal accomplishments, or enny other recommendation ov the beloved object; and a connexion, which proceeds from love, is more favorable tu population, than wun which proceeds from convenience or ambition. An infatuated noble might then enjoy the society ov an uneducated house-maid, without disgracing his family; nor woud that blind deity, hoo is fabled tu hav employed Hercules at the spinning-wheel, or Avarice, also a blind deity, be able tu bind a Peer ov the realm apprentice tu a saddler*.

Under a Government, whare no hereditary honors, no privileges, or immunities ov nobility, no heraldic distinctions are respected, it is improbable that marriage cood exist. Whot prudent person, hoo every day has before his eyes examples ov husbands ruin'd thru the extravagance ov their wives, and wives distress'd thru the folly ov their husbands, woud embrace a ceremony, which might be a source ov perpetual vexation, and from which no single benefit cood proceed? The inferior classes hav bin accustomed tu marry, because their superiors hav done the same; and people ov rank hav bin influenc'd, when doing so, by the hopes ov transmitting their dignities tu posterity. But if their parental affection, or this natural and yuseful vanity ware not flatterd by the advantages which their children woud enjoy, why shood

* A rich saddler, ov the name ov Dunk, fearing that his dauter, the heirefs ov an immense fortune, acquired in trade, might become a prey tu sum fortune-hunter, enacted in his will, that she shood forfeit all her property, if she married enny man hoo wos not by trade a saddler. The Earl ov Hallifax, wishing tu possess the heavy prize, after having workd a fixt time at the business, wos acknowledg'd as a saddler by the Saddler's Company, and not only married her, but annexed her name tu his oan.

they

they marry at all? In England, where the family title is only borne by the head of the house, wun often sees him, hoo yused tu exult in the unconfined independence of celibacy, submitting tu the obligations of marriage the moment when, from the unexpected decease of a relation, he inherits the distinctions of his family. With what consistency can the law of France pretend, that all its citizens shall be born equal, while it tolerates an institution, during the existence of which, wun man will be born legitimate, and another a bastard? Nor is this system incompatible with a monarchic or aristocratic form of government. If a Patrician should have an amour with a female of an equestrian family, his children would have no claim to senatorial privileges, but bearing the name and arms of their mother, would be entitled only to the distinctions of that class in society to which she belong'd. If a senator should have an intrigue with a woman of low extraction, the fruit of this connexion would be plebeian. On the other hand, should a Peeress of the realm, or a lady of quality, cast her affection on the basest-born individual, her offspring, without any inquiry how or what was their father, would inherit all the dignities, privileges, and pre-eminence of their maternal house.

Should the dignity of the Peerage, or letters of Nobility, be conferr'd on any person, they might be entail'd upon the heirs of his mother, descending, at his decease, in succession, according to their seniority, to his brothers, and at their decease to his nephew, the elder son of his elder sister; at the extinction of her posterity, to the descendants of his second sister, and so forth. The Throne succession might be directed by the same rules: the deceased Monarch might be succeeded by his next brother, or by the son of the Royal Princess.

The governing, as well as the govern'd, would be gainers by this plan. The Prince would be able to follow his own inclinations in all love affairs; it would not be necessary to import from foreign countries, Princesses, blinded by foreign prejudices, attended by a tribe of foreign courtiers, and perhaps pining after the enjoyments of their native land; nor would the people, being entirely unconnected through the alliances of rulers

rulers with the rulers ov other nations, be so often seduced intu foreign wars, or run the hazard ov being interrupted in the execution ov enny change ov government, thru the interposition ov foreign powers.

If this system ware introduced intu Europe, the Emperor ov Germany wood be succeeded in the kingdoms ov Hungary and Bohemia by his brothers, and afterwards by the children ov his elder sister Maria Theresa Josepha. His Britannic Majesty (for the prolongation of hoos reign every grateful Briton must pour forth vows tu Heaven, and cood even desire the accomplishment ov that Oriental sentiment ov loyalty, "May the King live for ever!") wood be succeeded by his Royal Highness the Duke ov Gloucester, or by the heirs ov the reigning Ducheß ov Brunswic-Wolfenbuttell. The Prince ov Wales wood, in right ov his mother, succeed, at the deth ov the present Duke and bis brothers, tu the Duchy ov Mecklenburg-Strelitz; and if all the tales which are asserted against Maria Antoinetta be true, the Dauphin can hav but a very equivocal claim tu the throne ov France; but hooever might hav bin his father, he is indubitably related tu the House ov Austria; and no wun cood contest his title as an Archduke ov that family.

The chief superiority ov the new over the old system, consists in this consideration—it is more just and reasonable that a child shood bear the name ov his mother than that ov his father; as the relationship between a child and his mother is indisputable, but no wun can proof his self the son ov his reputed father*.

Thou hauty aristocrat! whether the founder ov thy name wos ov British or Norman origin, whether he attended the victorius banners ov the Saxon brothers, signalized his self among the Norman Barons, bore the red-cross banner tu the sepulchre ov his Redeemer, or gathered laurels on the plains ov Cressy or ov Agincourt, canst thou proof in thy veins wun single drop ov his noble blood? Canst thou, ov whotsoever nation thou mayest be, whether thou art a candidate for the

* Among sum ov the Indian nations ov North America, the child belongs tu the mother, as they allege it must be uncertain hoo is the father. CARVER's Travels.

Shall the polish'd European be exceeded in penetration by the uncultivated Indian?

Malta or Teutonic Order ; whether thou bearest the name Douglas or de Rochefaucault, Howard, or de Montmorenci, and canst sit covered in the presence ov Royalty, canst thou with certainty maintain that all thy mothers ware as faithful as their husbands were illustrius ; and if wun link in the genealogical chain shood fail, the hole foundation ov thy pride must be involv'd in uncertainty. Mayest thou, whether thou art an Emperor or King, Prince or Peer, Baronet or Count, Baron or Esquire, mayest thou not be the son ov a footman or coachman ? and may not the sacret author ov thy existence hav boarn on his button or his sleeve, that escrutcheon which flames upon thy chariot, and graces thy sideboard ?

In vain exhibits the high-born German a pedigree ov sixteen noble ancestors ; each ov his eight great, great grandmothers might hav bin a fly or uncontrol'd strumpet ; each ov his eight great, great grandfathers a deceived or conniving cuckold. With indifference, then, must wun hear the man ov family claim Charles the Great as the source of his house ; but cood enny wun proov a descent, continued from female tu female, from the sister ov that remarkable hero, in that case only wood wun be obliged tu acknowledge him related tu the magnificent erector ov the western empire.

Can enny thing be so ridiculus as family pride, in a country whare Cicesbeoism is general ; the haughty Signor, tho unwilling tu sacrifice his natural freedom tu his vanity, is anxious that his name shood continue ; he tharefore marries, and commits tu his wife the care ov procuring an heir for his titles. In mennny parts ov Europe, this custum prevails to such a degree, that no man can be esteemd, with enny probability, the son ov him tu hoos possessions he succeeds. On the Continent, thare are countries, whare high birth is held in such veneration, that no wun, hoo can not proov his self paternally and maternally descended from a fixt number ov noble families, can claim admission intu the first societies ; yet even in these verry places, the marriage vows are held so little sacred, that even ladies ov the first rank are accused by travellers ov often casting their affections on their livery servants.

In Britain, female chastity is indubitably more general than in enny other European country ; yet it admits ov a doubt, if the nation gains enny advantage from the preposterous estimation in which it is considerd. Tu this may be ascribed the infinit number ov prostitutes hoo infest the metropolis and other great cities ; sum ov hoom, women ov family and education, and free from every crime, tho unable tu resist the dictates ov nature, hav bin banished from the protection and endearments ov their home, and obliged tu seek a precarius livelihood by a loathsum profession. From the chastity, which married women and all creditable females are forced to maintain, the males are driven intu low intrigues and vulgar connexions ; hence proceed the terrible and almost universal ravages ov the venereal disease, with which men ov all ranks are visited ; whareas if a young Frenchman ov quality had bin known ever to hav had this disgraceful malady, it wood have bin such a stain in his fashionable character, that he cood never hav aspired tu the smiles ov a decent woman, or hav hoped tu boast ov a *bonne fortune* afterward. Tu the severe formality which must reign in the intercourse ov peeple ov rank ov different sexes, may perhaps be owed the drinking-bouts, boxing-matches, lobbey-disputes, and the other illiberal occupations ov the British youth ; and all the vulgarism, wont ov politeness, aversion tu good company, and uncoothness when in it, which, in the opinion ov foreigners, tarnish the lustre ov the national character.

Let not the husband, even in England, be too confident in the chastity ov his wife ; adultery has always bin discoverd by chance ; a thing which is by chance discoverd, may by chance remain conceald. Females will be able tu elude the vigilance ov the moast scrutinizing jealousy, tho immured like Danae in a brazen tower, or confin'd like an Eastern Sultana within the haram ov a seraglio : nor will her lover be able tu curb his desires, tho the sum ov fifteen thousand pounds might whisper a freezing exhortation tu the impetuosity ov his passion.

Tho wun can not accuse the laws ov Britain ov partiality toward the male sex, and ov injustice toward adulteresses, yet the women are still tu be commiserated. It is true, that the female is permitted tu accuse
her

her husband ov infidelity ; but as the women are merely passive in courtship, it is doubtful if enny wun, hoo had availd her self ov this right, wos ever able tu enter a second marriage. She tharefore finds it more politic tu content her self with a share in a husband ; and prefers whotever careffes he may please tu cast upon her, tu the certainty ov a perpetual widowhood. On the contrary, the man hoo has had his self divorced from wun woman, has always in his power tu pay his addressees tu an other.

How miserable is the situation ov that poor man, hoos confort has bin unfaithful tu his bed ! If he is ov an economical disposition, he is uncertain if he be the father ov those hoo will inherit his possessions. Has he augmented the value ov his estate, hoo will enjoy the benefit ov his improvements ? Has he committed the acorn tu the ground, nun ov his descendants may recline under the shade ov the majestic oak. Has an hereditary distinction bin conferrd on his public exertions, the spurius offspring ov an adulteress may succeed tu the rewards of his activity. Humiliated by this mortifying idea, the vigor which yused tu characterize his conduct, degenerates intu sloath and indifference ; and melancholy engrosses those leifure hours, which ware dedicated tu frendly conviviality. These doubts haunt him till the approach ov his dissolution ; and even on his dethbed, he sees in the attentions ov him hoom he is obliged to oan as his heir, nothing but the hypocrisy ov wun hoo is impatient tu close his eyes, in order tu rummage his coffers.

If a man's wife may hav had an intrigue with a livery servant, the fruit ov such a connexion are not the children ov the husband ; but shood a man's sister attach her self tu such a lover, her children, notwithstanding the baseness ov their father, wood hav every claim to the favor and protection ov their uncle. Ware this system introduced, and the manner ov succession alterd, every wun wood be certain that his name and possessions wood be enjoyd by them, hoo wood be incontestably his relations, shood his family exist till the trumpet ov Doomsday shood sound. He hoo prefers the old system tu the new, prefers a possibility tu a certainty, and rejects a proof tu adopt a supposition.

It may not be improper to point out the different occupations and duties of each sex. Tho both sexes are equal, they may not be both designed to follow the same occupations. The brothers may exercise the different professions, yet neither profession be subservient to the other. Man is designed for active, woman for domestic, life. Let the males be their own masters, and employ their selves in public affairs; let the females be their own mistresses, and manage their own domestic concerns, It would be hurtful to population, if an army were composed of females; because, should the combatants be led into the field during their pregnancy, wun bullet would destroy the lives; and it would be highly ridiculous should the most important national affairs be interrupted, while her Excellency the Prime Ministers should lie under the care of an accoucheur.

Tho a female be not designed for the camp, the senate, or the bar, let her receive such an education as will enable her to superintend the instruction of the future lawyer, general, and politician; for the same uncertainty which destroys the whole claim of the child to the possessions of the father, absolves the father from all obligation of educating and maintaining the child; the care and management of the child must therefore entirely and exclusively devolve on the mother. She ought to have such precepts instilled into her mind, as would enable her to conduct herself with resolution and propriety in every case of difficulty. She should be independent and self-agent in every circumstance of her life. What a glorious revolution would this new system effect in the manners of women? Not longer those insignificant creatures, whose time is consumed in the most unimportant occupations, and whose attention is directed to the attainment of the most superficial accomplishments, they would assume a more determined, and (if wun may allow wun's self the expression) a more manly character.

* Ovid calls L^uc^retia a *matrona virilis*; and if a contempt of death is a mark of an extraordinary force of mind, she deserved the praise; but had she been born at a more enlightened period, she never would have destroyed her self for having committed an action against her consent; to which even if she had consented, she had not acted against the will of nature. She was a heroine, but no philosopher. Her glorious death merited a more reasonable eulogy.

Hoo can deny that the female is perfectly fit tu execute the charge ov education. No wun formerly thaught, that among the American farmers woud arise a set ov legislators, the profoundness ov hoos political plans woud be able tu baffle the efforts of statesmen hackney'd in intrigue, and tu arrest the admiration ov the more polish'd Europeans. Shood the hands ov females be unshackled, hoo could ascertain the extent ov their abilities? Ware not the Gracchuses indebted tu the good education which they had receivd from their mother Cornelia, for the pre-eminence which they enjoyd among their fellow-citizens? Even in the nursery, when the dispositions ov the tue sexes begin tu unfold their selves, while the boy is delighted at a rocking-horse, and animated at the sound ov a drum, his sister feels a maternal affection for her doll, and amuses herself with the domestic economy ov her baby-house. And hav not, in moast modern languages, the best treatises upon education proceeded from the pens ov women?

The female ov rank, conscius ov the illustrius heroes which her race might hav produced, woud not tremble more at the approach ov war, or endeavor tu snatch her son from the impending danger; but woud point out to him the names ov those ov his uncles, hoom the finger ov history had recorded, and glowing with the enthusiasm ov a yuseful family pride, woud bid him imitate their virtues.

Like the ladies in the time ov chivaldry, from hoos fair hands the triumphant champion receivd the laurel ov victory, she woud become the chief excitement tu merit and heroic valor. The mother woud blush at the recollection ov a timid son, and no coward cood aspire tu the smiles ov a decent nymph; and if the lover or son shood meet his fate in the field, this woud be the first question which the parent or female friend woud, with Spartan resolution, demand ov his fellow-combatants, "Was his deth caused by an honest wound?"

While such might be the employments ov females, a wider field ov exertion woud lie open tu the talents and genius ov males. Lord Verulam observes, that the plurality ov great characters hav bin bachelors. In England, at present the three first statesmen, Mr. Pitt, Mr. Fox, and Lord Thurlow, are unmarried. What a race ov politicians, generals,

rals, and philosophers, might be expected in a nation, whare every lofty soal ware unimpeded, by the care ov providing for its offspring, from following enny grand object in contemplation ! This consideration has detained the soldier from the field ; has deadend the curiosity ov the philosopher, and stopt the voice ov the patriot. How oft have the lucubrations ov a philosopher bin interrupted by a skolding ov a Xantippe ! How many Hampdens wood hav accused the injustice ov a tyrant—how menny a Sydney wood hav ascended the scaffold, but for the fear ov entailing on their helpless children the rancor ov an offended Court ! If unimpeded by marriage, the lover ov botany wood scour every distant forest ; the mineraligist wood burn tu inspect every foreign mine ; and the natural philosopher wood quit his country, in order tu giv the first discription ov a newly-discoverd vulcano. How menny circumnavigators wood aspire tu rival the name ov the immortal Cooke ! How menny travellers, ardent for glory, like Bruce wood penetrate intu the bosom ov unknown and uncultivated relms ! Whot improvements wood every art, every science receive ; with whot depth ov thought wood every speculativ subject be examin'd ; with whot firmness wood every government be directed ; with whot desperation wood every battle be faught !

In wun thousand seven hundred and ninety-tue, while the arms ov Austria and Prussia ware combined against the late revolution in France, every unmarried Frenchman flew tu the standard ov the new Republic ; and hole villages ware left destitute ov every male inhabitant, except those hoom the cares ov a family, or corporeal infirmities, hinderd from lending their assistance tu their country. In order that they might direct their entire attention tu the interests ov the Church, the policy ov the Vatican forbid the Roman Catholic priests to marry ; and wun receives not willingly intu wun's service a married person, either as a footman or chambermaid.

If enny are peculiarly happy, they may esteem their felves so hoo are fortunate in love. Life must be an Elysium tu that pair hoo are mutually blest'd in the arms ov each other : but why shoold marriage bind them tu a spot, the charms ov which, like the garden ov Eden, may vanish, and leave them the glebe-adscript cultivators ov a desert ? Love

without marriage will be as happy as love with marriage ; but marriage without love, must be a state of indifference or vexation. The new-married lover may be compared to a hungry beast, tethered in a rich pasture ; at first, how content are they both with the luxury of their situation ! But wun might with equal reason suppose, that the animal's enjoyment might proceed from the rope, which binds him to the spot, as that the lover's felicity proceeds from his marriage. Shood the animal's appetite become appeased, or the lover's affection cool, they wood both feel the hardship of their confinement.

Is not human life sufficiently beset with misfortunes ? Are not the fondest hopes of mortals subject to disappointments ? Their existence embittered by the loss of whatever is dear to them ? and their health the sport of a multiplicity of diseases ? But must the law-giver contribute to their misery ? He shood not measure out every indulgence with the severity of an Ægyptian taskmaster ; but shood allow every gratification, which is not attended by pernicious consequences *. Shood his sagacity tolerate a system which cramps the genius and vigor of the male ; or his justice favor an institution, which debases the female into a slave ?

Hoo wood not prefer the rank of first citizen among a body of freemen, to a despotic throne over a sycophant and trembling crew of subjugated slaves ? And whot man of generous sentiments wood not prefer the affection of the spirited and accomplish'd Eloisa, to the passive obedience which Sarah shoud her lord and master Abraham ?

The authorefs of " the Rights of Women " proposes the foundation of public schools, where the youth of both sexes might be educated together. During the existence of the present institution of marriage, this project wood be impossible ; but were the recommended system introduced, nothing cood be productive of such good consequences. A union of true strangers wood not hav the same prospects of stability, as wun between a pair hoo had had every previous opportunity of be-

* The North-American Indians laugh at the Europeans for having only wun wife, and that for life ; as they conceive the good Spirit formed them to be happy, and not to continue together, unless their tempers and dispositions were congenial.

Voyages and Travels of an Indian Interpreter, by J. Long. Robson, 1791.

coming acquainted with each other. Wood not friendship, habit, and the pleasing recollection ov every event, which occur in those days ov childhood and innocence, which they enjoyd in the society ov each other, rivet their bands, and promise a perpetual constancy? Are not the friendships, which hav commenced between persons ov the same sex at school or college, remarkable for their firmness and continuance?

Such are the advantages, in which consists the superiority ov the discuss'd system ov Gallantry and Inheritance over the European system ov Marriage. O, ye, hoo boast your selves ov benevolent feelings, hoo humanity urges yoo tu unshackle the captiv African, and tu unfurl on Siera Leona the white banner ov liberty. It is not necessary that ye shood fly so far from the polish'd world in quest ov objects of pity. If ye claim the name of philanthropists, tear from your eyes the vale ov prejudice and superstition; rescue your sisters and manumit your wives from an oppressiv yoke; and promote a system, which deserves the attention ov the politician, because favorable tu population; which claims the approbation ov the aristocrat, because it wood ensure tu the nobility a birth unequivocal and incontestably genuin; and demands the support ov the patriot, because it must be conduvis tu the happiness and liberty ov mankind.



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